

Information Disclosure Statement:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for initialing and returning Form PTO/SB/08 A & B filed on April 5, 2002, thus indicating that all of the references listed thereon have been considered.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-9 are all of the claims pending in the present application, and currently all of the claims stand rejected.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejection - Claims 1, 3 and 6-9:

Claims 1, 3 and 6-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,049,821 to Theriault et al. In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection.

Theriault discloses a system having an information source 140 with a information storage 150, a host computer 290 having an enhanced proxy 300, which is connected to the information source 140 through a network 120. The system further contains browsers 100 and 101, each of which is connected to the enhanced proxy 290 through a local network 230. During operation, each of the browsers 100 and 101 sends a query 160 to a query filter 302, in the enhanced proxy 300, which filters the query 160 to send a modified query 360 to the information source 140. The information source 140 then retrieves the information from the attached information storage 150 in response to the modified query 360, and sends a response 170 to a response filter 304, of the enhanced proxy 300. The enhanced proxy 300 then filters the response 170 to send a modified response 370 to one of the browsers 100 or 101.

However, with that said, Theriault fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention, as alleged by the Examiner. Specifically, Theriault fails to disclose (1) "access right holding means for previously holding access right information indicative of a type of accessible data for each of [a] plurality of client devices," or (2) "means for granting an access to the data corresponding to [the] received data read request in the database of [a] first storage device to [] one client device if a result of the determination by [a] determining means indicates an accessible type." *See* claim 1, *see similarly* claim 3.

Theriault discloses that "[a]ccess to an information source may be restricted according to the protocol contained in the URL of the query. For example, the proxy may be configured to deny access to information sources of a specific type such as gopher, ftp (file transfer protocol) or email." Col. 14, line 66 to col. 15, line 3. However, the "specific type," referred to by Theriault, is indicative of a protocol type defined in accordance with the capabilities of a browser, and is not indicative of a type of data accessible to the information source.

Therefore, Theriault fails to disclose at least "access right holding means for previously holding access right information indicative of a type of accessible data for each of [a] plurality of client devices" because a protocol used to transfer data in no way indicates accessibility of the underlying data. As such, Theriault fails to disclose at least this feature of the present invention.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that Theriault fails to disclose each and every element of the claimed invention, in particular the claimed etching adjustment layer. Therefore, Theriault fails to anticipate the claimed invention, as required under the provisions of 35

U.S.C. § 102(e). Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of the above claims.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection - Claims 2 and 4:

Claims 2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Theriault in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,944,825 to Bellemore et al. However, because these claims depend on claims 1 and 3, respectively, and because Bellemore fails to cure the deficient teachings of Theriault with respect to claims 1 or 3, Applicant submits that these claims are also allowable, at least by reason of their dependence.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection - Claim 5:

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Theriault in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,236,996 to Bapat et al. However, because this claim depends on claim 5, and because Bapat fails to cure the deficient teachings of Theriault with respect to claim 3, Applicant submits that this claim is also allowable, at least by reason of its dependence.

Conclusion:

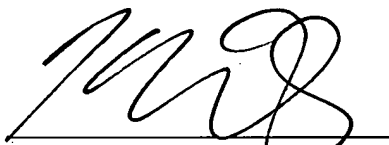
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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